

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 IO-14 AF-10

NEA-10 SAJ-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 DODE-00 DRC-01

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P R 161839Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4061

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USNATO 3208

USEC 8641

UNCLAS PARIS 27010

DEPT PASS USIA FOR IWE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: PARIS PRESS TREATMENT OF U.S. RE-SUPPLY OF ISRAEL AND  
OF PRESIDENT'S MEDAL OF HONOR CEREMONY REMARKS

SUMMARY: PARIS PRESS INTERPRETS NEWS OF U.S. RE-SUPPLY  
OPERATION FOR ISRAEL VARIOUSLY AS "READINESS TO SACRIFICE DETENTE  
WITH MOSCOW IN FAVOR OF COMMITMENTS TO ISRAEL", OR "RAISING THE  
TONE WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING CHANCES OF DIPLOMACY" OR "BACKING THE  
RUSSIANS AGAINST THE WALL."

ONLY TWO NEWSPAPERS AND THE STATE-  
OWNED RADIO ECHOED FRENCH NEWS AGENCY'S INITIAL MISINTERPRETATION  
THAT PRESIDENT "LET IT BE UNDERSTOOD U.S. IS READY TO INTERVENE  
MILITARILY", BOTH FIGARO AND LE MONDE CAREFULLY DOCUMENTED ACTUAL  
U.S. POSITION WITH FULL USE OF PRESIDENT'S MEDAL OF HONOR CEREMONY  
TEXT AND ABUNDANT QUOTES FROM MCCLOSKEY. END SUMMARY.

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1. PARIS PRESS PUT VARYING INTERPRETATIONS ON WASHINGTON

ANNOUNCEMENT THAT U.S. IS RE-SUPPLYING ISRAEL. HEADLINES RANGE FROM COMMUNIST HUMANITE'S "NIXON ENVISAGES SIXTH FLEET INTERVENTION" TO PRO-GOVERNMENT FRANCE-SOIR'S "US, USSR ESCALATE ARMS DELIVERIES TO MIDDLE EAST". IN FIGARO, CORRESPONDENT LEO SAUVAGE WROTE FROM WASHINGTON THAT "WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW ARE RAISING THE TONE OF THEIR VOICES WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING CHANCES OF DIPLOMACY". FRANCE-SOIR'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT AGREED: "ESCALATION IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE HAS NOT REDUCED AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS". BUT SAME CORRESPONDENT ALSO ESTIMATED THAT "U.S. IS READY TO SACRIFICE DETENTE WITH THE SOVIETS TO ITS COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL IF THE SITUATION REQUIRES IT. THIS IS THE REAL MEANING OF AMERICAN DECISION... TO SHIP EXTRA ARMS..." LE MONDE'S HENRI PIERRE IN WASHINGTON WROTE THAT "THE AMERICAN DECISION BACKS THE RUSSIANS UP AGAINST THE WALL, SINCE THEY MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN A COSTLY AND DANGEROUS COURSE OF ARMS OR SUPPORT NEGOTIATIONS". HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED, "IN THE MINDS OF OFFICIAL (WASHINGTON), THE AMERICAN INITIATIVE IN DELIVERING ARMS -- AND STILL MORE IN THE PUBLICITY GIVEN THIS MOVE -- IS MEANT TO SUPPORT DIPLOMATIC ACTION. IT WAS IMPORTANT, ONE IS TOLD, THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATE PUBLICLY ITS DETERMINATION SO THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT TAKE A BETTER MEASURE OF THE RISKS INVOLVED IN THE ARMS RACE." PIERRE SAID DECISION TO ANNOUNCE PUBLICLY THE U.S. ARMS DELIVERIES "WAS NOT EASY", AND QUOTED MCCLOSKEY TO EFFECT THAT U.S. WAITED SEVERAL DAYS AFTER START OF SOVIET AIRLIFT, SIMPLY WATCHING SITUATION AND HOPING TO ACHIEVE "DIPLOMATIC ARRANGEMENT". IF WASHINGTON WAS PURSUING ONLY MILITARY OBJECTIVE, PIERRE WROTE, IT WOULD HAVE CONDUCTED ARMS RE-SUPPLY OPERATION "AS DISCREETLY AS POSSIBLE. BUT SECRECY WOULD HAVE UNDERMINED THE SOUGHT-FOR DIPLOMATIC OBJECTIVE OF MAKING MOSCOW REFLECT". THIS EXPLAINS WHY POLITICAL CHARACTER OF RESUPPLY DECISION "RESIDES IN PUBLICITY GIVEN TO IT." COMBAT THOUGHT IT CURIOUS THAT, JUST AS BELLIGERENTS IN WAR WERE SHOWING SIGNS OF "POLITICAL EVOLUTION", THE SUPERPOWERS "ARE ENGAGING IN DIPLOMATIC ESCALATION... IF JERUSALEM AND CAIRO DO NOT SEEM TO BE EXCLUDING THE EVENTUALITY OF A CEASEFIRE, WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW ARE HARDLY HASTENING IT."

2. ONLY TWO PARIS PAPERS (APART FROM HUMANITE) AND THE ORTF RADIO WERE MISLED BY INITIAL FRENCH NEWS AGENCY (AFP) MISINTERPRETATION OF PRESIDENT'S OCTOBER 15 REMARKS AT MEDAL OF HONOR CEREMONY.  
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"US READY TO INTERVENE MILITARILY" WAS ONE OF PRO-ISRAELI AURORE'S HEADLINES WHILE COMBAT ON AN INSIDE PAGE, AFTER QUOTING NIXON TEXT IN FULL, DECLARED THAT PRESIDENT HAD THUS "LET IT BE UNDERSTOOD THAT U.S. IS READY TO INTERVENE MILITARILY" -- ALMOST A DIRECT QUOTE FROM LEAD PARAGRAPH OF OFFBASE AFP STORY. OTHER CORRESPONDENTS AND EDITORIALISTS WERE MORE CIRCUMSPECT. DO PRESIDENT'S WORDS "MEAN THE U.S. IS READY TO INTERVENE DIRECTLY IN FAVOR

OF ISRAEL?" ASKED FIGARO'S SAUVAGE. "WE ARE STILL RATHER FAR  
FROM THAT". MR. NIXON HIMSELF "DISSIPATED" SUCH AN INTERPRETATION  
WITH HIS OWN WORDS, WROTE SAUVAGE, NOTING THAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN  
"MORE CLEARLY THAN HIS WHITE HOUSE COLLEAGUE", HAD DENIED THAT  
PRESIDENT'S WORDS "WERE E  
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